



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 2, 2016

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
860-509-7101**

Senate Bill #289 - An Act Concerning Health Care Services

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information in regards to Senate Bill #289.

Section 7 of the bill revises the certificate of need (CON) criteria contained in section 19a-638(a) of the general statutes regarding the replacement of imaging equipment. While the Department supports the changes contained in section 7, it believes further changes should be made to more broadly state the imaging equipment eligible for replacement without certificate of need authorization.

DPH has submitted a proposal (see House Bill #5451, sections 3 and 4) that would allow for a piece of imaging equipment to be replaced with any other type of imaging equipment without certificate of need authorization. These sections seek to clarify and simplify certain changes made by Public Act 15-146. Specifically, section 39 of Public Act 15-146 added an exception to subsection (a) of section 19a-638 for the replacement of imaging equipment. However, exceptions to CON requirements are contained in subsection (b) of section 19a-638. Therefore, section 3 proposes the removal of the exception language from subsection (a) of section 19a-638, and section 4 adds the exception language to subsection (b) of section 19a-638, where the other exceptions are located. The proposed change also clarifies that a piece of imaging equipment may be replaced with any other type of imaging equipment, as enumerated in subdivision (10) of subsection (a) of section 19a-639, without certificate of need review. As currently worded, it is unclear if a piece of imaging equipment can be replaced with any other type of imaging equipment or if it must be a replacement in kind.

The Department has no concerns with the rest of the sections of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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